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--5. (amended) Method according to Claim 4, characterized in that the concentration of the reducing agent is set in such a way that the hydrocarbon/N<sub>2</sub>O molar ratio is in the range from 0.2 to 20, preferably in the range from 0.5 to 5.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in the present application.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly requested.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

*Benoit Castel*

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BC/lmt  
Attachments

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

--3. (amended) Method according to Claims ~~1~~ and 2, characterized in that the precious metal comprises ruthenium, rhodium, palladium, gold or platinum, or a combination of two or more of these metals.--

--5. (amended) Method according to Claims ~~1~~ and 4, characterized in that the concentration of the reducing agent is set in such a way that the hydrocarbon/N<sub>2</sub>O molar ratio is in the range from 0.2 to 20, preferably in the range from 0.5 to 5.--

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